

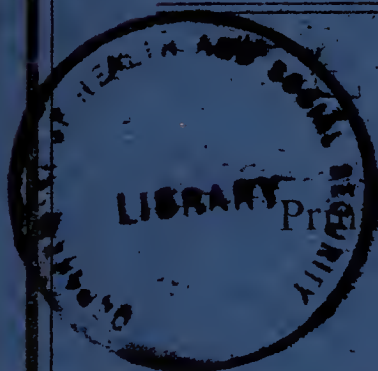
TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT 1969

REPORTS OF THE Medical Officer of Health AND Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year ending
31st December, 1969.

GREAT TORRINGTON:

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TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the Torrington Rural District for 1969

By

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Medical Officer of Health,

and

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Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

STAFF

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Dr. E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor :—

F. G. GANE, F.F.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Deputy Surveyor :—

C. A. KERSWILL, Cert. S.I.E.J.B.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Area.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimated population figure was 7,280 as compared with 7,320 for the previous year.

Births increased from 79 to 108 giving a birth rate of 17.6 as compared with 16.3 for England and Wales.

There were 11 illegitimate live births during the year which is approximately 10% of all births. The percentage of illegitimate live births to that of all live births in England and Wales was 8.

The total number of deaths during the year was 86 as compared with 88 in 1968. Two infant deaths under the age of 1 year were recorded although they did not die in 1969. Their bodies were recovered following police investigations, one infant is believed to have died in 1962 and the other in 1965. No deaths occurred amongst the inhabitants of the Area in the age group 1—34 years. The majority of deaths were due to heart complaints (approximately 30%). 16 deaths were due to brain damage following haemorrhage and there were 9 deaths due to chest infections such as influenza, bronchitis and pneumonia. Forty four percent of all deaths during the year occurred in persons over 75 years of age. There were 3 male deaths due to lung cancer, all of whom were in the 65—74 age group.

There were 17 infectious disease notifications reported - most of which were Scarlet Fever. Measles notifications had fallen to 3 due no doubt to the introduction of measles immunisation.

No lung tuberculosis cases were reported during the year. One case of Q Fever was reported - this occurred in a master at a Private School. This infection is comparatively rare amongst humans in this country but it is common amongst animals such as goats, cattle and sheep. Infection is transmitted to humans via dust, milk or via animal ticks. The source of this particular infection could not be discovered but the School was supplied with raw unpasteurised milk and because of the liability of milk borne infection, particularly salmonella and abortus infection which is prevalent amongst the cattle in this country, it was recommended that the School should use pasteurised rather than untreated milk.

Salmonella infection amongst animals on 12 farms was reported during the year by the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. In spite of the prevalence of this organism amongst cattle, no cases of this infection was reported in humans although no doubt subclinical or missed cases occurred. The infection like brucella can be spread to humans through raw milk and the need for pasteurisation cannot be over emphasised.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS.

May, 1970.

Torrington Rural District

1969

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	79,803
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	7,280
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,873
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£119,630
Sum realised by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£472

VITAL STATISTICS

Area Comparability Factors	...	Births 1.19	Deaths 0.92
Live Births	...	...	108
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	14.8
Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	...	...	17.6
Illegitimate Live births percent of total Live Births	...	...	10%
Still Births	...	...	1
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	9
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	109
Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	...	...	2
Infant Mortality Rates:			
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	...	...	19
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	21
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	Nil
Neo Natal Mortality Rate (death under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	9
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate (death under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	9
Peri Natal Mortality Rate (Still Births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	...	...	18
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	...	...	Nil
Number of Deaths	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	Nil
Deaths	...	...	86
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	11.8
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	...	...	10.9

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF

Cause of Death						Sex	Total All Ages
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	...	...	...	...	...	M	3
						F	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	M	3
						F	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	...	M	—
						F	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	M	2
						F	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	M	2
						F	1
Diabetes Mellitus	...	...	...	...	...	M	—
						F	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
						F	—
Hypertensive Disease	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
						F	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	M	6
						F	12
Other Forms of Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
						F	7
Cerebrovascular Disease	...	...	...	...	...	M	8
						F	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	M	5
						F	3
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	M	2
						F	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
						F	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	...	...	M	3
						F	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
						F	—
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
						F	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
						F	—
All Other External Causes	...	...	...	...	...	M	1
						F	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	M	44
						F	42

LIFE DURING 1969 IN THE RURAL DISTRICT.

Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years								
		1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and Over
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	6
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	5
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	5
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	15	18
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	12	20

POPULATION BIRTHS and DEATHS for the
RURAL DISTRICT since 1956.

YEAR	POPULATION	LIVE BIRTHS	DEATHS
1956	7392	119	136
1957	7150	105	79
1958	7160	45	75
1959	7130	42	59
1960	7130	28	48
1961	7190	52	46
1962	7190	97	91
1963	7200	86	96
1964	7280	105	86
1965	7280	104	89
1966	7300	111	100
1967	7300	90	82
1968	7320	79	85
1969	7280	108	86

BIRTHS

During the year there were 108 live births as compared with 79 in 1968.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	48	60	108
Illegitimate	1	10	11
Still Births			
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—

DEATHS

The total number of deaths within the Rural District during the year was 86 as compared with 85 in 1968. There were 2 infant deaths under the age of 1 year.

Male—44 Female—42 Total—86

There were no deaths of women in childbirth during the year.

CANCER DEATHS

There were 16 deaths from cancer during the year.

		Males	Females
Bowel	...	3	2
Lung	...	3	—
Breast	...	—	2
Prostate	...	1	—
Leukaemia	..	2	—
Others	...	2	1

Infectious Diseases

A total of 13 infectious diseases were notified :-

Infectious Hepatitis	2
Scarlet Fever	10
Acute Pneumonia	4
Measles	7
Dysentery	2 Sonne
Erysipelas	—
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—

No lung tuberculosis cases were notified during the year.

Food Poisoning

No instances of food poisoning were reported.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

No compulsory removal of elderly persons from their homes under the above Act occurred during the year.

Brucella Abortus in Milk

No positive milk samples for Brucella Abortus were reported during the year.

No cases of undulant fever in humans were reported.

Annual Report of Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

DETAILS OF VISITS

Number of houses inspected	....	....	....	....	68
Number of houses re-inspected	....	....	....	....	37
Keeping of Animals	....	....	....	....	4
Offensive accumulations	....	....	....	....	13
Dirty Houses	....	....	....	....	1
Infectious disease investigation	....	....	....	....	4
Disinfections	....	....	....	....	1
Factories & Workshops	....	....	....	....	24
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	8
Other Food Premises	....	....	....	....	72
Food Inspections (except meat)	....	....	....	....	3
Water Samples	....	....	....	....	28
Obstructed or defective drains	....	....	....	....	84
Drains inspected or tested	....	....	....	....	127
Council Houses	....	....	....	....	466
Swill boiling plants	....	....	....	....	2
Boarding Kennels	....	....	....	....	8
Offices	....	....	....	....	31
Plans investigated	....	....	....	....	367
Building inspections	....	....	....	....	1,216
Improvement Grant applications	....	....	....	....	71
Re-visits for improvement grants	....	....	....	....	240
Sewage works visited	....	....	....	....	394
Petroleum inspections	....	....	....	....	27
New Sewerage Schemes	....	....	....	....	378
Refuse Tips	....	....	....	....	138
Council Building Sites	....	....	....	....	253
Caravan Sites etc.	....	....	....	....	68
Food delivery vans etc.	....	....	....	....	6
Advertisement control	....	....	....	....	6
Dangerous structures	....	....	....	....	30
Abandoned vehicles, bulky refuse etc.	....	....	....	....	39
Surveys	....	....	....	....	13

FACTORIES ACT, 1961. Part I of the Act.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of			Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. Non-Power	1	1	—		—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority Power	25	24	3		—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) Building sites etc.	27	38	3		—
TOTAL	53	63	6		NIL

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector By H.M. Inspector	

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	....	....	....	....	68
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....				4
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....		64

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	53
--	------	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

Number of Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority	20
---	------	------	------	------	------	----

New Housing Accommodation Provided

Number of new houses erected by local authority	8
Beaford 4 St. Giles 4	
Number of new houses erected by private enterprise	18

Council Housing Programme

During the year 8 two bedroomed bungalows were completed. The Council now owns 252 houses and bungalows, and 33 garages.

Applications were received for :-

6 Discretionary Grants.

26 Standard Grants.

4 Discretionary Improvement grants were completed during the year bringing the total up to 193. In addition 23 standard grants were completed bringing the total up to 362.

The total expenditure to the end of the year was :—

Discretionary grants	....	....	£66,153
Standard grants	....	....	£53,460
			<hr/>
			£119,613
			<hr/>

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Caravans

There are 3 licensed sites in the district, one at Winkleigh also being licensed for residential use. In addition there are a few individually sited vans that have had planning permission and been licensed for temporary periods. The sites are frequently inspected and generally run in a satisfactory manner. There are also three exempted sites operated by the Caravan Club and the Camping Club, but these are little frequented.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council operates a fortnightly refuse collection covering most of the area except for a few isolated farms and cottages. The village of Winkleigh is served weekly. The vehicle used is a Shelvoke & Drewry fore and aft tipper which is manned by two collector-drivers. The refuse is disposed of on two tips at the moment at Winkleigh and Roborough. The vehicle also collects the refuse from litter bins in the villages and on road-side lay-bys.

During the year 6 abandoned vehicles were either removed by the Council or by the owner after warnings.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The villages of Winkleigh, Shebbear, Sheepwash, Taddiport, St. Giles-in-the-Wood, Kingscott, Roborough, Petrockstowe, Merton, Yarnscombe, Stibb Cross, Little Torrington, Ashreigney, Hollacombe and Weare Giffard are now equipped with modern sewerage and sewage disposal systems. A new works in progress at Dolton will be operational next May. Other villages requiring schemes to complete the Council's programme are High Bickington, Beaford, Langtree, Riddlecombe and Frithelstock. A scheme for High Bickington is in preparation.

These villages have primitive sewage systems which are very unsatisfactory and give rise to frequent nuisances. Nuisance is also frequently caused by individual unsatisfactory septic tank effluent disposal and crude discharges. Progress is still much too slow and a greater priority ought to be given to such vital matters. The effluent from the Winkleigh works has been improved by the installation of wedge wire clarifiers.

WATER SUPPLIES

The area is very well served by the North Devon Water Board via a network of mains and all villages and hamlets are supplied. Only remote dwellings now rely on shallow wells for a supply.

The following new connections were made during the year :

24 Domestic	19 Trade
-------------	----------

The total number of premises now connected to the mains is :

1,899 Domestic	358 Trade
----------------	-----------

(excluding farm houses)

There are no standpipes in the district.

The following is a list of the parishes showing the number of houses connected and an estimate of the population served :—

			<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>No. of population served</i>
Alverdiscott	....	....	50	150
Ashreigney	....	....	103	309
Beaford	....	....	101	303
Buckland Filleigh	....	....	21	63
Dolton	.....	.....	160	480
Dowland	....	....	19	57
Frithelstock	....	....	80	240
High Bickington	....	....	97	291
Huish	....	....	14	42
Huntshaw	....	....	32	96
Langtree	....	....	118	354
Little Torrington	....	....	77	231
Merton	....	....	92	276
Peters Marland	....	....	57	171
Petrockstowe	....	....	81	243
Roborough	....	....	41	123
St. Giles	....	....	134	402
Shebbear	....	....	157	471
Sheepwash	....	....	81	243
Weare Giffard	....	....	77	231
Winkleigh	....	....	293	879
Yarnscombe	....	....	49	147

The water is treated at the source to counteract plumbosolvency. Samples of the water are frequently taken by the Board's officials for chemical and bacteriological examination and the results are notified to the Department.

25 Samples of water were taken from private supplies of which 3 were found to be completely satisfactory. In the case of unsatisfactory supply where a mains supply was available, connection was made; but in many cases of isolated premises the owner/occupier was advised to fit filtration plant or to boil all water before drinking.

1 Sample taken from mains supply after transportation in tanks was found to be satisfactory.

A total of 28 visits were made by the Department in connection with water sampling.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

In conjunction with Torrington Borough Council a full-time Operator was shared by the two authorities until September. The operator retired at the end of September and the service was discontinued. A Contract has now been signed with Messrs. Rentokil to operate from 1st April next.

The following work was carried out in the Rural District during the year :—

No. of Local Authority Premises treated ....	....	8
No. of Visits to same ....	....	37
No. of Private Premises treated ....	....	117
No. of Visits to same ....	....	759
No. of Business Premises and Farms treated ....	....	1
No. of Visits to same ....	....	11
No. of Survey calls made ....	....	945

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one gut scraping establishment in the district, associated with the Winkleigh Abattoir, and this is satisfactorily operated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Slaughtering

There are two licensed slaughter houses in the district including an abattoir at Winkleigh. All animals killed were inspected. A full time resident meat inspector was in constant attendance.

TABLE A

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part
Figures in brackets are for 1968

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs and Goats	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	768 (1004)	992 (1031)	162 (261)	49959 (59640)	8081 (7183)	— (—)
Number inspected	768 (1004)	992 (1031)	162 (261)	49959 (59640)	8081 (7183)	— (—)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses con- demned....	2 (3)	20 (13)	34 (40)	571 (573)	26 (11)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	146 (119)	291 (252)	18 (32)	9856 (10791)	548 (472)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tub- erculosis and Cysticerci	19 (12.15)	29.30 (25.70)	11.10 (27.59)	19.70 (20.73)	6.80 (6.72)	— (—)
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	— (—)	(—) (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	124 (159)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1.70 (2.20)	— (—)
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	5 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	38 (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	5 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE B

Summary of Meat Condemnations with cause and weight.

Food Condemned	Weight in lbs.
Due to Tuberculosis :	
Parts of 124 Pigs	1,371 lbs. <i>i.e.</i> 12 cwts. 27 lbs.
Due to Diseases other than Tuberculosis :	
Carcases and Organs of 2 Cattle	376
Carcases and Organs of 20 Cows ...	7372
Carcases and Organs of 34 Calves	1697
Carcases and Organs of 571 Sheep	28282
Carcases and Organs of 26 Pigs	2533
Parts of 146 Cattle	2761
Parts of 291 Cows	7249
Parts of 18 Calves	254
Parts of 9,856 Sheep	20371
Parts of 548 Pigs	2716
	<hr/> 71,078lbs.
	<hr/> <i>i.e.</i> 31 tons 14 cwts. 70 lbs.

Condemned meat was disposed of through trade channels for sterilisation.

TABLE C

Condemned Foods.

None worth reporting.

THE FOOD HYGIENE (General) REGULATIONS 1960

The following is a list of food premises in the district :—

Type of Premises	No.	No. which comply with Regulation 16	No. to which Regulation 19 applies	No. which comply with Regulation 19
Grocery and General Stores	27	27	27	27
Bakers	3	3	3	3
Butchers	4	4	4	4
Public Houses & Hotels	16	16	16	16
Cafes	6	5	6	6

21 Premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured in the district. 72 visits to food premises were made during the year.

LIQUID EGG (Pasteurisation) REGULATIONS, 1963.

There are no plants in the district.

POULTRY INSPECTIONS

There are no poultry processing premises within the District.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT

One swill boiling plant is operating in the district and has been licensed. 2 visits were made.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

37 petroleum storage licences were issued during the year.

SLAUGHTERING LICENCES

12 licences were issued during the year to slaughtermen.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

The following inspections have been carried out under the 1963 Act :-

Type of Premises	Registered in 1967	Total Registered	General Inspection
Offices	—	5	5
Retail Shops	4	16	15
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	—	1	1
Catering Establishments	—	1	1
Totals	4	23	22

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises - 31.

No certificates of exemption were issued during the year.

No accidents were reported during 1969.

PLANS

153 plans were submitted during the year, 103 were approved, 40 refused, 6 withdrawn and 4 pending. There were also 73 plans submitted in addition for Building Regulation approval only.

All plans were considered by the Council's Planning Committee after submission to the Divisional Planning Committee of the Devon County Council.

I attended most of the monthly meetings of the Divisional Planning Committee.

BOARDING KENNELS

4 premises are registered under the Act and 8 visits were made to them during the year. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

STAFF

I would like to pay tribute to the work of my deputy, Mr. Kerswill during the year and also to Mr. Dean and Mr. Humphreys. I would also like to thank your Clerk, Mr. B. W. Leatt, and your Medical Officer, Dr. E. Williams, for their assistance and co-operation at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

F. G. GANE.

